GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1397
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Sugarcane Farming
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under sugarcane cultivation has declined in the country during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether sugarcane farmers are diverting towards the farming of crops like pulses, floriculture and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance sugarcane production in order to meet the shortage of sugar in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Although depending on weather and rainfall conditions, comparative profitability of other crops etc., area under sugarcane in different States/UTs during the last three years i.e. 2013-14 to 2015−16 has been fluctuating, overall area of the crop in the country has been hovering at around 50-51 lakh hectares. During the current year i.e. 2016-17, sowing of sugarcane is still in progress. However, as per the trend on the progress of sowing received from State Governments so far, total area coverage under sugarcane in 2016-17 should also be around 50-51 lakh hectares. States/UT- wise details of area under sugarcane during 2013-14 to 2015-16 are given in the Annexure.

(c): During the last five years, the production of sugar in the country has been in excess of its domestic consumption and there is no shortage of sugar.

However, to enhance production and productivity of Sugarcane in the country, from 2014-15 the Government has been implementing Sugarcane Development Programme under National Food Security Mission-Commercial Crops (NFSM-CC) in 13 major sugarcane growing states of the country viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana,

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Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Under the scheme, thrust has been given on transfer of technology through Frontline Demonstration and training to farmers. The assistance is also provided for demonstration on inter-cropping and single bud chip technology with Sugarcane, demonstration on use of tissue culture seedlings/plantlets, strengthening/establishment of tissue culture and bio-agent laboratories, etc.

The states can also support Sugarcane Development Programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLCC).